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Contact: Dave Wellman
Communications Manager
219-644-3506
dwellman@rda.in.gov

Economic Development Awards Recognize NWI Projects

RDA funding closed the deal for the Kirk Yard project in Gary; Fronius' move to Portage also cited in Area Development magazine's annual awards.

Crown Point, IN (June 13, 2012) – Two Northwest Indiana projects were among 10 cited statewide by *Area Development* magazine in presenting a 2012 Silver Shovel Award for excellence in economic development to Indiana in its summer 2012 issue.

The magazine named Canadian National's planned expansion of the Kirk Yard in Gary and Fronius USA's decision to locate its U.S. headquarters in Portage as two of the 10 "big projects" advancing the state's diverse economy. Combined, the two projects represent approximately \$186 million in investment in the region and are projected to create more than 750 jobs.

The Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) played a key role in bringing Canadian National to Gary, employing its Deal Closing Fund for the first time ever to provide a \$4 matching grant for the rail yard project. The grant will go towards improvements such as installation of a new waste water treatment facility and a new storm water management system.

The RDA also worked with local and state economic development officials last year to provide \$2 million in assistance to Modern Forge for its new facility in Merrillville. The company, which is moving to Indiana from Blue Island, IL, is investing \$17 million in a state-of-the-art forging facility expected to create 240 jobs.

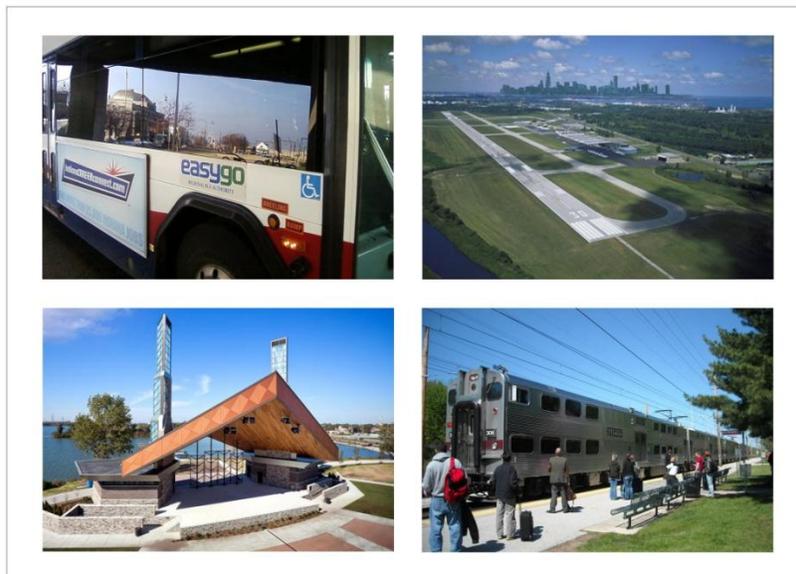
"It's gratifying to see the region and the state being recognized for all its hard work and innovation in attracting new business. Here in Northwest Indiana, RDA-funded initiatives have made huge strides toward revitalizing our shoreline and creating signature communities with

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strong appeal to companies like Fronius and Modern Forge as great places to live, work and play,” said Bill Hanna, president and CEO of the RDA. “We were pleased to be a part of bringing these projects to Northwest Indiana and look forward to working with local and state officials to attract even more jobs and investment to the region.”

Indiana was among 14 states honored with Silver Shovel Awards by *Area Development* magazine. Four others were named Gold Shovel winners. Indiana has now won one of the magazine’s “shovels” for five straight years, compiling one Gold Shovel and four Silvers.

Note: hi-resolution photos of the rail yard in Gary and the Modern Forge facility in Merrillville are available by contacting Dave Wellman at 219-644-3506 or dwellman@rda.in.gov.



About the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority

Established in 2005 through a bipartisan effort including Governor Mitchell E. Daniels, Congressman Peter J. Visclosky, key state legislators, and local elected officials, the RDA is quasi-governmental development entity entrusted to make public investment decisions within a regional framework for supporting catalytic infrastructure projects and inducing private sector investment. Its mission is to be a catalyst for transforming the economy and quality of life for Northwest Indiana. For more information, visit www.in.gov/rda and www.rdatransformation.com.